

First suppose  $R = kG$  is von Neumann regular. As a quotient ring of  $R$ ,  $k$  is certainly von Neumann regular. Consider any finite subgroup  $E \subseteq G$ , say of order  $m$ . It suffices to show that any prime  $p \mid m$  is a unit in  $k$ . To see this, we fix an element  $\sigma \in E$  of order  $p$  (which exists by Cauchy's Theorem). Taking an element  $\alpha \in R$  such that  $1 - \sigma = (1 - \sigma)\alpha(1 - \sigma)$ , we can argue that  $p \in U(k)$ . Finally, let  $H$  be a subgroup of  $G$  generated by a finite set of elements, say  $h_1, \dots, h_n$ . It is easy to see that

$$I := \sum_{h \in H} R \cdot (h - 1) = \sum_{i=1}^n R \cdot (h_i - 1)$$

(using facts such as  $h_i^{-1} - 1 = h_i^{-1}(1 - h_i)$ , and  $h_i h_j - 1 = h_i(h_j - 1) + h_i - 1$ ). Since  $R$  is von Neumann regular,  $I = Re$  for some idempotent  $e$ . Now  $I$  is contained in the augmentation ideal of  $R$ , so  $e \neq 1$  (since  $k \neq 0$ ).

Thus,  $f := 1 - e \neq 0$ . But for any  $h \in H$ ,  $(h - 1)f \in I \cdot f = R \cdot ef = 0 \Rightarrow f = hf$ . Since  $f$  involves only finitely many elements of  $G$ , this implies that  $|H| < \infty$ .

For the converse, let us assume the given conditions on  $k$  and  $G$ . Consider any element  $\alpha = a_1 h_1 + \dots + a_n h_n \in R$  ( $a_i \in k, h_i \in G$ ), for which we want to show  $\alpha \in \alpha R \alpha$ . Let  $H$  be the (finite) subgroup of  $G$  generated by  $h_1, \dots, h_n$ . Since  $\alpha \in kH$ , we are done if we can show that  $S := kH$  is von Neumann regular. Consider any principal left ideal, say  $S \cdot \beta$ , where  $\beta \in S$ . Viewing  $S \cdot \beta \subseteq S$  as  $k$ -modules, we have  $S \sim k^{|H|}$  and  $S \cdot \beta = \sum_{h \in H} k \cdot (h\beta)$ . Since  $k$  is

von Neumann regular,  $S \cdot \beta$  is a direct summand of  $S$  as  $k$ -modules. Then  $S \cdot \beta$  is a direct summand of  $S$  as  $S$ -modules. This checks that  $S$  is von Neumann regular, as desired.